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10 October 2008

Dear Colleague,

I have the honor of inviting you to the Launch of the Humanitarian Appeal 2009 on 19 November 2008.

The Humanitarian Appeal 2009 will be the culmination of a worldwide process in which the hundreds of aid organisations working in the world's most severe crises — including Sudan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, and the occupied Palestinian territory among others — come together to make concerted, strategic response plans and a unified funding appeal. The Humanitarian Appeal is the international community's principal tool to set strategy and raise resources for delivering to people in need the best available protection and assistance, on time. The Launch symbolises the international community's commitment to prevent and alleviate suffering, wherever it may occur. We hope that your organisation will be able to participate.

The Launch, which will be chaired by me, will be held in Room XVIII, on the 3rd floor, door 40, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Refreshments will be available from 14:30. I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance before Wednesday, 12 November 2008 to Ms. Laetitia Rougeron (rougeron@un.org).

ours sincerely,

John Holmes

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator